

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replace the second sheet of the drawings containing FIGS. 2 and 3. The only change being the addition of element numeral 29 and its lead line in FIG. 2.

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REMARKS

The applicants would like to thank Examiner Patel for the analysis set forth in the Office Action, and for his continued examination of the present application.

Amendment to Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4 of the specification, at line 11, as indicated above.

The referenced paragraph has been amended simply to identify the planar surface shown in FIG. 2, and now identified as element 29, by amending the third paragraph of the sentence to read as follows: "Closure 16 has an attachment portion 28 which is larger than the opening and has a planar surface 29 from which extends an axially projecting stopper portion 30 that is adapted to fit closely within opening 14." No new matter is introduced by this change as it merely describes what is clearly and unambiguously indicated in FIG. 2 and other figures in the application.

The reference paragraph has also been amended to describe the depicted spatial relationship between the backing ring and the projecting stopper portion, by amending the sixth sentence to read as follows: "Referring to FIG. 2, a backing ring 36 of pliable memory retaining material (while being sufficiently stiff as to resist extrusion flow under pressure), is positioned between peripheral seal groove 32 and attachment portion 28 of closure 16 in close fitting relation around the projecting stopper portion 30." No new matter is introduced by this change as it merely describes what is clearly and unambiguously indicated in FIG. 2 and other figures in the application.

Amendment to FIG. 2

FIG. 2 is amended to add reference numeral 29.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

The applicants note that Examiner's objection and the limitations "the planar containment surface" and "by pressure applying a force solely in an axial direction normal to the planar containment surface" have been deleted.

The applicants are not pursuing the limitations relating to the direction of the force, as they do not appear to be advancing the matter due to a difference in interpretation with the Examiner.

As will hereafter be further described, the applicants remain of the view that there are fundamental differences between the present invention and the Walker reference and will endeavour to address those differences with claim amendments based upon the content of the figures of the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claim 1 presently stands rejected as being anticipated by Walker.

The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner compare FIG. 2 of the Walker reference with FIG. 2 of the present application.

Positioning of Backing Ring:

Referring to FIG. 2, the backing ring 42 of Walker is positioned in a cutout pocket 28. Backing ring 42 is described as being a "truncated triangle" (Col. 3, line 17). Referring to FIG. 4, O-ring 24 extrudes into portion 58 of backing ring 42 when subjected to pressure, with cutout pocket 28 confining movement of backing ring 42.

Referring to FIG. 2, the backing ring 36 of the present invention encircles stopper portion 30 between a planar surface 29 provided by attachment portion 28 and seal groove 32. This positioning creates a different relationship between O-ring 34 and backing ring 36 and is contrary to the teachings of Walker. As backing ring 36 encircles stopper portion 30 in close fitting relation,

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O-ring 34 does not get under it, as is taught by Walker and there is no pocket to confine backing ring 36 as taught by Walker.

These important differences have been incorporated as limitations in Claim 1, which now provides:

that the attachment portion has a planar surface from which projects a stopper portion.


that the backing ring is positioned in close fitting relation around the projecting stopper portion between the peripheral seal groove and the planar surface of the attachment portion.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments do not introduce new subject matter into the Application as they merely serve to place in words subject matter which has always been present in the drawings.

Entry of the amendments, and a favourable disposition of the application is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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